

SECRET

EUR/BNL  
OUTGOING

SECRET  
IMMEDIATE

FRP: , , , , , , ,

STAFF

CONF: EUR/BNL-3  
MAB/JC, (5/P)

INFO: DACO, DOMDS, EUDORECORD, ODPD-D, VR, FILE,

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PAGE 001  
TOT: 231427Z JUN 88

DIRECTOR 121643

SECRET

STAFF 231427Z DIRECTOR 121643  
TO: IMMEDIATE ☐ ☐

FOR COORDINATION WITH ed DoJ/OSI

FROM: EUR/BNL

SUBJECT: LIAISON REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ROBERT JAN  
((VERBELEN))

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2003 2008

- REF: A. ☐ ☐ 32175 9343128  
B. STATE 194715, 16 JUNE 1988  
C. STATE 190181, 14 JUNE 1988  
D. STATE 195431, 17 JUNE 1988  
E. BRUSSELS EMBTEL 08464, 20 JUNE 1988

1. HQS REFERS ☐ ☐ TO REFS B-E FOR HELP IN ANSWERING  
☐ ☐ REQUEST FOR INFO ON THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
REPORT ON SUBJECT CASE. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN A COPY OF  
REPORT AND WILL POUCH AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE. HQS CONFIRMS  
THAT THERE WAS NO REPEAT NO PNWORLD CONTACT WITH ROBERT JAN  
VERBELEN AT ANY TIME.

2. FOLLOWING FOR ☐ ☐ INFORMATION ONLY IS A FILE  
REVIEW ON SUBJECT PREPARED 28 DECEMBER 1983 WHICH WAS  
OCCASIONED BY A NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ENTITLED "BELGIAN NAZI  
TIED TO U.S. ARMY." WE WILL CABLE ANY ADDITIONAL INFO AS SOON  
AS ALL RECORDS ARE IN HAND AND HAVE BEEN REVIEWED:

3. ROBERT JEAN VERBELEN ☐ ☐ AKA RICHARD BECKER,  
PETER MEYER, VAN MARTENS VERBELEN, ERICH DIEL, HERBERT  
CHARPENTIER, JOSEPH POLLACK AND ALFRED H. SCHWAB. BORN 5 APRIL  
1911 IN GERENT (NEAR LOEWEN), BELGIUM. VERBELEN WAS A MEMBER  
OF THE FLEMISH SS AND HELD THE RANK OF OBERSTURMFUEHRER. HE  
WAS ALSO THE LEADER OF THE DEVLG SICHERHEITSKORP ESTABLISHED  
TO COMBAT THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT IN BELGIUM. VERBELEN FLED TO  
VIENNA AT THE END OF THE WAR LEAVING HIS WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN  
BEHIND WHO WERE REPORTEDLY MURDERED BY THE RESISTANCE  
MOVEMENT. ON 14 OCTOBER 1947 HE WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH IN  
ABSENTIA BY THE BELGIANS WHO ACCUSED HIM OF TAKING PART IN OR  
DIRECTING POLITICAL MURDERS DURING THE WAR.

4. TWO UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORTS ALLEGE THAT VERBELEN WAS  
THE LEADER OF A TRAINING CENTER FOR SOVIET AGENTS LOCATED AT  
SCHNEIDERMUEHL, DDR, AT THE END OF THE WAR, AND WAS EMPLOYED BY  
"SOVIET CENSORSHIP" IN 1946.

5. VERBELEN WAS IN CONTACT WITH CIC AND/OR CID IN AUSTRIA  
FROM 1946 TO 1956 UNDER THE ALIAS ALFRED SCHWAB. CIC CONTACT  
WAS APPARENTLY BROKEN IN 1956 DUE TO LACK OF ACCESS.

6. IN APRIL 1962 VERBELEN WAS ARRESTED BY AUSTRIAN  
AUTHORITIES FOR HIS WARTIME ACTIVITIES. HE WAS HELD FOR THREE  
YEARS BEFORE HIS TRIAL IN DECEMBER 1965. THE CASE RECEIVED

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PAGE 002  
TOT: 231427Z JUN 88

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WIDE-SPREAD PUBLICITY IN THE AUSTRIAN PRESS WHICH STATED THAT VERBELEN WORKED FOR THE AMERICAN MILITARY AS A SECRET AGENT AS WELL AS FOR THE AUSTRIAN STATE POLICE. ACCORDING TO A HIGH-RANKING VIENNESE POLICE OFFICIAL, VERBELEN WAS ONE OF THE BEST INFORMANTS OF THE AUSTRIAN POLICE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF RIGHTIST EXTREMIST GROUPS IN AUSTRIA.

7. THERE IS MENTION IN HIS FILE OF SOME INTEREST IN HIM ON THE PART OF THE GERMAN BUNDESNACHRICHTENDIENST (BND). NFI.

8. VERBELEN WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE OBTAINED POLITICAL ASYLUM IN ALGERIA FOLLOWING THE TRIAL BUT AUSTRIAN LIAISON REPORTED HE WAS UNABLE TO LEAVE AUSTRIA FOR LACK OF IDENTITY DOCUMENTATION. LIAISON REPORTED HE WAS LIVING IN VIENNA AND WORKING EXTENSIVELY ON A SERIES OF ESPIONAGE NOVELS.

9. A 29 OCTOBER 1969 66TH MIG REPORT STATES THAT VERBELEN REMARKED AT A GATHERING OF FRIENDS THAT HE WAS CONTACTED BY THE KGB THROUGH AN AGENT TO RECRUIT HIM FOR INTELLIGENCE WORK. AT THE SAME TIME HE REPORTED THAT THE KGB WAS WELL AWARE OF HIS "PRESENT WORK FOR THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE SERVICE." ALSO IN OCTOBER 1969 A BAVARIAN LFV COVERT SOURCE REPORTED THAT VERBELEN CLAIMED TO BE WORKING FOR THE KGB. IN THEIR RECRUITMENT PITCH, THE KGB ALLEGEDLY STATED THAT THEY WERE WELL AWARE OF HIS FORMER EMPLOYMENT WITH AIS BUT WERE PREPARED TO GIVE HIM BETTER PROTECTION. VERBELEN ALLEGEDLY CLAIMED THAT KGB PROTECTION WAS IN FACT BETTER. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT VERBELEN'S COVER WAS A JOURNALIST/STRINGER FOR THE SALZBURGER VOLKSBLATT AND HIS PRIME TARGET WAS RIGHTIST ORGANIZATIONS IN AUSTRIA. NFI.

10. HQS FILES ALSO CONTAIN [ ] FOR ONE ALFRED H. SCHWAB WHO APPEARS IDENTICAL TO VERBELEN. DPOB GIVEN AS 20 NOVEMBER 1914, APIA, GERMAN SAMOA, WHICH IS IDENTICAL TO INFORMATION CONTAINED IN VERBELEN'S FILE UNDER THE ALIAS SCHWAB. INFORMATION CONTAINED WITHIN STATES THAT SUBJECT WAS A CASUAL CONTACT OF CIC AGENT IN THE FALL OF 1946 AND WAS SLOWLY DEVELOPED OVER A PERIOD OF TIME BY THE CIC IN VIENNA. SUBJECT ALSO MADE APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH RADIO FREE EUROPE UNDER THE NAME HERBERT MAYER.

11. FILE: [ ] DECL OADR DRV HUM  
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ORIG: EUR/BNL [ ] X-39575); AUTH: C/EUR/BNL; REL:  
C/EUR/BNL CL BY [ ]  
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